

Comments on 05-235 regarding Morse code requirement in the Amateur licensing

Sirs:

I would like to support the actions of 05-235 to remove the Morse code requirements for Amateur licensing.

No other Amateur operating mode is tested. It is assumed Hams will learn proper operating procedures from other Hams or training materials readily available. It doesn't matter if the operating mode is FM or SSB phone, PSK-31 or digital modes, or CW. Operating a radio comes from practice and training regardless of the mode used.

The current 5 WPM requirement is slower than most CW communication. Hams still have to "learn the code" after getting a license before they are comfortable with CW. In my case, this took more than a year of on air CW operating. The 5 WPM ability has served primarily as a starting point from which Hams can improve CW abilities. Hams can begin with no CW ability, and if interested, they will learn the code, and get on the air practicing and learning CW in the same manner as learning to operate PSK-31 or other new digital modes.

My one concern is that eliminating Morse Code licensing requirements leads to an assumption the CW bands are no longer required. A great many Hams know the code, and use it for regular communications. Please ensure the elimination of the Morse Code licensing requirements are not interpreted as an elimination of the CW operating modes, and associated bands. CW and Phone communications work best when separated.

Thank you for your attention,
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